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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/727,573	12/05/2003	Teiji Yamamoto	KOM-159/INO	7354
23353	7590	03/07/2007	EXAMINER	
RADER FISHMAN & GRAUER PLLC			STORMER, RUSSELL D	
LION BUILDING				
1233 20TH STREET N.W., SUITE 501			ART UNIT	
WASHINGTON, DC 20036			PAPER NUMBER	
3617				

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
3 MONTHS	03/07/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/727,573	YAMAMOTO ET AL.
	Examiner Russell D. Stormer	Art Unit 3617

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 13 December 2006.
- 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-9 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	Paper No(s)/Mail Date: _____
3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application
Paper No(s)/Mail Date: _____	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.
2. Claims 1, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Maguire et al (U.S. Patent 6322173) in view of Maguire et al (U.S. Patent 6783196) and Bottom et al.

Maguire et al '173 discloses a track link assembly comprising internal and external links having a having a coupler pin, a fixed bushing, and a sealing ring. As shown in figure 11, the insert or fixed bushing 36 extends from the bushing hole in the internal link, the bushing hole in the internal link appears to have the same dimension as the hole in the external link, and the hole in the external link is not a coupler pin hole inasmuch as a collar 40 is fitted therein.

Maguire et al '196 teaches a track assembly in which the fixed bushing 34 may extend beyond the bushing hole in the internal portion of the link (figure 1) or the fixed bushing 34' may be modified to fit within the bushing hole as shown in figure 4 and described lines 57-66 of column 5.

Bottom et al teaches a track link assembly in which thickness of the inner and outer links 12, 14, respectively, may be varied as shown in figures 1-6 and 11. As shown in figure 4, the inner link 12 is thicker than the outer link 14 such that the bushing hole 94 has a greater thickness than the coupling pin hole in the outer link, and in this embodiment the outer link has a hole for the coupling pin instead of a hole which receives a collar or bushing.

From the teachings of Maguire et al '196 and Bottom et al it would have been obvious for the fixed bushing 36 of Maguire et al '173 to fit entirely within the bushing hole of the internal link, and for the external link to have a coupling pin hole which is smaller in thickness than the bushing hole as these have been shown to be obvious and equivalent mechanical expedients and variations.

With respect to claim 8, note the bosses 302 of Maguire et al '173.

With respect to claim 9 note the concavities formed where the extension members 106, 108 meet the main body of the link as shown in figures 5 and 8.

3. Claims 2-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Maguire et al '173 as modified by Maguire et al '196 and Bottom et al as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Lawson.

For the outer surface of the internal link of Maguire et al to be provided with a raised portion around the bushing hole would have been obvious as taught by Lawson as shown in figure 2 as this would provide a better interfitting of the inner and outer links.

Response to Arguments

4. Applicants' arguments filed 12/13/06 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicants' arguments concerning the "concavity" objections are persuasive and these objections have been withdrawn.

Applicants' arguments directed to the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 103 have been considered, but do not appear to explain how the amendment to claim 1 defines over the prior art of record.

Further, the arguments against the Maguire et al patents and the Bottom patent are not entirely understood.

That Bottom may not teach a shape of the link as stated on page 6 of the remarks does not appear to be relevant.

The arguments on pages 7 and 8 involve Maguire '173, Bottom, and JP06-504747 (which was not used in the rejection), as well as a marked-up copy of figure 2 of Maguire et al (submitted as Illustrative Drawing figure 1), and a marked-up copy of instant figure 3 (submitted as Illustrative Drawing figure 2).

It is not really clear why the combination of references as set forth in the rejection would have a problem of decreased rigidity as alleged on page 7, or why this combination would not have a suitable angle of flexion.

On page 8 Applicants seem to state that Maguire et al '173 and Bottom are not directed toward the problem solved by the claimed invention, but absent any structural differences between the combination of Maguire et al '173 as modified by Bottom and the claimed invention, or a clear reason why the combination is unobvious, it is hard to see how the finding of the problem would make any difference toward patentability.

Conclusion

5. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Russell D. Stormer whose telephone number is (571) 272-6687. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday, 9 AM to 4 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Joe Morano can be reached on (571) 272-6684. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

3/5/07


RUSSELL D. STORMER
PRIMARY EXAMINER
3/5/07